Helmets for Pillion Riders

2201. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only male pillion riders are to wear helmets and not females;

(b) whether it is not a law discriminatory and peculiar in nature;

(c) what steps are being taken to make the uniform law to bring all people riding pillions at par not to wear helmets; and

(d) by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) In exercise of powers conferred by the second proviso to Section 129 and clause (i) of sub-section (2) of section 138 read with section 212 and clause (41) of Section 2 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1998, the Lt. Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi, after prior publication for taking into consideration any objections and suggestions, amended rule 115 of Delhi Motor Vehicles Rules, 1993 under which it has been made optional for a woman whether riding on a pillion or driving on a motor-cycle to wear a protected head-gear. The exemption given is in exercise of statutory powers and, therefore, valid in law.

Shankar Guha Niyogi Murder Case

2202. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jabalpur High Court charged CBI for fudging the records and evidence in Shankar Guha Niyogi Murder case;

(b) whether any culprit has been punished in the murder case so far;

(c) whether Governmnet will enquire into the role of CBI in failing to solve the murder case; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The trial court, in Shankar Guha Niyogi Murder Case, had awarded death penality to the main accused Paltan Mallah and life imprisonment to five other accused persons. The High Court of Madhya Pradesh at Jabalpur, vide its judgement dated 26.6.1998, made certain observations on the CBI investigation while allowing appeals by the accused persons against the judgement of the trial court convicting them. The Special Leave Petition

filed by the CBI in the Supreme Court of India in this connection has been admitted. The matter is, at present, sub judice.

Smuggling of Human Skulls

†2203. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that massive smuggling of human skulls is being done at Indo-Nepal border;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 88 human skulls were recovered at Patna junction last year in the month of June; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by Government to check the smuggling of human skulls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government of India has not received any report regarding smuggling of human skulls on the Indo-Nepal border.

(b) and (c) As Public Order and Police are State subject, information/ details regarding such cases are maintained by the State Government concerned.

Political and Social violence in North-East

†2204. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for no decrease in political and social violence in North-East States inspite of heavy deployment of security forces there; and

(b) whether any foreign conspiracy and intrusion can be held responsible for this or any internal system is responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) It is not correct to say that there has been no decrease in violent activities in North East. Apart from Manipur and Tripura, the situation in other States has shown a distinct improvement in the recent past.

Continued violence in the North Eastern States can, however, be attributed to the fact that much of the militancy in the North East has degenerated into a cottage industry of killing, extortion and kidnappings with the sole aim of making money.

Pak ISI has also been actively involved in fomenting trouble in the North East.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.